



USDA INVITES PUBLIC TO PARTICIPATE IN DISCUSSION ON AGRICULTURE'S IMPACT ON AIR QUALITY

DAVIS, Calif., June 4, 1997--The United States Department of Agriculture's Task Force on Agricultural Air Quality announces a public meeting for the discussion of the relationship between agricultural production and air quality. Special emphasis will be placed on promoting a greater understanding of California's agriculture and its impact on air quality and role in the local and national economy.

The meeting will convene Tuesday, June 17, from 9:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. It will resume at 9:00 a.m., Thursday, June 19, and continue until 3:00 p.m. The site for both sessions is the Picadilly Inn Airport Hotel, 5115 East McKinley Avenue in Fresno.

Written material and requests to make oral presentations should be sent no later than June 13 to George Bluhm, University of California, Land, Air, Water Resources, 1512 Hoagland Hall, Davis, California 95616-1552. To contact this office by telephone, call 916-752-1018. Individuals with disabilities who require special assistance should contact Mr. Bluhm as soon as possible.

The task force will review research results by any federal agency that address air quality issues related to agriculture. The Department will use the information as it works with other agencies on agricultural air quality issues. The task force will find means to strengthen vital research efforts related to agricultural air quality, determine the extent to which agricultural activities contribute to air pollution, determine cost-effective ways in which the agriculture industry can improve air quality, and coordinate research on agricultural air quality issues to avoid duplication and ensure data quality and sound interpretation of data.

The task force was established by USDA Secretary Dan Glickman and is chaired by Paul W. Johnson, Chief of USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service. Task force members include farmers and ranchers, representatives of public and private agricultural organizations and agencies, public health officials, educators, and engineers from throughout the Nation.



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